

# Joel Fund gets grant for veteran writing classes

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WAKE FOREST — The Joel Fund recently received grant support for the implementation of Writing for Well-Being.

The new program of expressive writing classes is offered to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center employees, including active duty, veterans, and caregivers.

The classes are part of Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs and the state and local arts agencies with administrative support provided by Americans for the Arts and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Writing for Well-Being is part of the Employee Wellness Program at the Bethesda, Maryland facility.

The Joel Fund's mission, to reconnect veterans to life at home, offers, as one of its key services, Operation Art, a community therapeutic arts program, aiming to provide an expressive outlet for emotional wellbeing in the lives of veterans and their families.

“I have been honored to work with The Joel Fund, leading expressive writing classes for veterans not only in our area, but also recently for employees at Walter Reed,” stated June Guralnick, creative writing instructor for The Joel Fund. “Participants have shared their dreams, experiences, and struggles through powerful, often heart-wrenching stories, bearing witness to — and gaining new perspective — on their lives,” Guralnick added.

“June was an incredibly skilled facilitator, immediately creating a safe space for the healthcare providers that had also joined, remarked Maia Magder, one of the participants.

Magder said June's "assignments progressed not only from a logical space, but also from a heart space that allowed me to deepen my writing skills and think about how I process past, present, and future experiences."

For more information about Writing for Well-Being and other TJF programs, contact Brooke Dickhart, executive director, 919-247-9333, [brooke@thejoelfund.org](mailto:brooke@thejoelfund.org).